

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 9-28 and add Claims 30-48 as indicated:

1-28. (cancelled)

[[28.]] 29 (currently amended) A method comprising:
selecting a source range of cells in an electronic spreadsheet;
creating a persistent copy of cells that are in the source range of cells;
pasting the persistent copy of cells into a destination range of cells; and
applying a source visual appearance attribute to the source range of cells, the source visual appearance attribute being removed from the source range of cells only if a copy-paste manager invokes a break-paste command that breaks a relationship previously established between the source [[rage]] range of cells and the destination range of cells.

30. (new) The method of claim 29, further comprising:
applying a destination visual appearance attribute to the destination range of cells that indicates that the destination range of cells contains a copy of the persistent copy of cells.

31. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein the source visual appearance attribute applied to the source range of cells indicates that the persistent copy of cells has been created.

32. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein the source visual appearance blinks if the persistent copy of cells is a most recently pasted group of cells to have been pasted into a destination range of cells in the electronic spreadsheet.

33. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein the destination visual appearance attribute is a background pattern.

34. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein the source visual appearance attribute is a background pattern.

35. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein the destination visual appearance attribute is a background color.

36. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein the source visual appearance attribute is a background color.

37. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein the destination visual appearance attribute is a font style.

38. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein the source visual appearance attribute is a font style.

39. (new) The method of claim 30, wherein the destination visual appearance attribute is a font color.

40. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein the source range of cells is a single cell.

41. (new) A method of claim 29, further comprising:
storing the source range of cells and the destination range of cells in a persistent copy-paste table in a non-volatile memory.

42. (new) The method of claim 29, wherein the source visual appearance attribute of the source range cells indicates that the persistent copy of cells has been created, and wherein the method further comprises:

applying a destination visual appearance attribute to the destination range of cells indicating that the destination range of cells contains a content of the persistent copy of cells.

43. (new) The method of claim 42, further comprising:

storing the destination visual appearance attribute and the source visual appearance attribute in the non-volatile memory.

44. (new) The method of claim 42, further comprising:
using a copy-paste manager to control copy and paste operations in the electronic spreadsheet, the copy-paste manager allowing a user of the electronic spreadsheet to select:
a single copy-paste operation between a source reference range of cells and one or more destination ranges of cells that is to be performed only once, or
a persistent copy-paste operation between the source reference range of cells and one or more destination ranges may be performed multiple times using the persistent copy of cells.
45. (new) The method of claim 44, further comprising a Graphical User Interface (GUI) that illustrates options to the user to select the single copy-paste operation or the persistent copy-paste operation.
46. (new) The method of claim 43, wherein the destination visual appearance attribute is a background pattern.
47. (new) A computer program product, residing on a computer usable medium, comprising:
program code for selecting a source range of cells in an electronic spreadsheet;
program code for creating a persistent copy of cells that are in the source range of cells;
program code for pasting the persistent copy of cells into a destination range of cells; and
program code for applying a source visual appearance attribute to the source range of cells, the source visual appearance attribute being removed from the source range of cells only if a copy-paste manager invokes a break-paste command that breaks a relationship previously established between the source range of cells and the destination range of cells.
48. (new) The computer program product of claim 47, further comprising:
program code for applying a destination visual appearance attribute to the destination range of cells that indicates that the destination range of cells contains a copy of the persistent copy of cells.